

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4874

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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DEPT. PASS: RODEL, FISHERIES ADVISER/USAID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, EAID, MO, US

SUBJ: NEED FOR FISHERIES EDUCATION IN MOROCCO

1. RFA HAS HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY FISHERY FIRMS AND WITH HIGH-SEAS FISHERIES ASSOCIATION REGARDING DEPARTURE OF OFFICE NATIONAL DE PECHE'S (ONP) DIRGEN LAYACHI.

2. IT IS NOW CERTAIN THAT LAYACHI WILL GIVE UP POSITION IN AUGUST OR IN OCTOBER, DEPENDING UPON FIRST MEETING OF PARLIAMENT. QUESTION NOW IS WHO WILL REPLACE HIM.

3. MOST BUSINESSMEN FEEL THAT LESS EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON PURCHASE OF FISHING VESSELS BY ONP AND MORE ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO FISHERIES TRAINING. MAJOR STUMPLING BLOCK, TO DATE, HAS BEEN ONP'S INABILITY TO FIND TRAINED CREWS TO MAN VESSELS -- A FACT WHICH ALSO EFFECTS COMMERCIAL FISHERIES.

4. MANY BUSINESSMEN FEEL THAT U.S. COULD AND SHOULD PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN MOROCCO'S FISHERIES, VIA JOINT VENTURES. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN THESE WOULD BE PROVIDING MOROCCO WITH SKILLED MANPOWER AND MODERN TECH-
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NOLOGY. ALONG SAME LINE, ONE ONP OFFICIAL, TOLD RFA THAT FISHERIES TRAINING WOULD PROBABLY BE REQUESTED FOLLOWING LAYACHI'S DEPARTURE.

5. RFA HAS HELD INFORMAL TAKLS WITH POLISH AND NORWEGIAN CONSULATES ABOUT THEIR PLANS. BOTH COUNTRIES, AWARE OF RFA REPORT ON MOROCCO'S FISHERIES, APPROACHED RFA ABOUT BEST

WAYS TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING GOOD FISHERY RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO. RFA STRESSED EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND BOTH AGREED, WITH NORWEGIANS BEING ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN A FISHERIES SCHOOL.

6. RFA BELIEVES U.S. COULD PLAY A ROLE BY PROVIDING A FEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FISHERIES TRAINING TO MOROCCANS WHO COULD RETURN HOME AS TEACHERS. ALTERNATIVELY, CONTACT MIGHT BE MADE WITH INTER OCEANIC FACTORS (INFAC) OF CALIFORNIA WHICH OPERATES A FISHERIES SCHOOL IN MANTA, ECUADOR. INFAC MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TEACHING AIDS OR TRAINING PROGRAMS. SCHOOL MIGHT ALSO SERVE AS MODEL FOR ONP OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPPING MOROCCO'S TRAINING PROGRAMS.

7. CARE SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE TAKEN TO COORDINATE ANY PROJECT WITH FAO/UNDP, WHICH HAS A SMALL FISHERIES TRAINING PROGRAM IN MOROCCO, AND WITH NORWEGIAN AND POSSIBLY POLISH GOVERNMENTS TO AVOID DUPLICATION, IF THIS IS DESIRABLE.

8. RFA WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING GENERAL GUIDLINES AS TO ANY REALISTIC OPTIONS WHICH COULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF NEW ONP DIRGEN WHEN HE TAKES OFFICE.
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